

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5637
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USMISSION NATO
USDEL MBRF VIENNA
CINCEUR
CINCLANT
CINCPAC
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18935

CINCEUR FOR POLAD
CINCLANT FOR POLAD
CINCPAC FOR POLD
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD
CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD
SHAPE FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON MBFR

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1. SUMMARY. A SIGNED COMMENTARY ON MBFR IN THE WEEKLY
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ZA RUBEZHOM ACCUSES NATO OF VIOLATING IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS

UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED DURING THE PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS WHICH PROVIDE THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD OBSERVE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUALITY AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. HINTING AT A U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT CONDOMINIUM ON MBFR, ZA RUBEZHOM SAYS THAT NATO IS HINDERING FULFILLMENT OF THE U.S.-SOVIET OBLIGATION, AGREED UPON AT VLADIVOSTOK, ACTIVELY TO SEEK AGREEMENT BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AND THE PREVENTION OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE. COMMENTARY NEVERTHELESS ENDS ON AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE, NOTING THE FAVORABLE INFLUENCE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS CAN EXERT ON DENTENTE "IN THEIR TURN" (I.E., AFTER CSCE) AND CONCLUDING THAT PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE AND "SHOULD ENSUE." U.S. NUCLEAR WARHEADS ON OVERSEAS BASES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LOW-KEY MENTION IN OTHER SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY, THOUGH THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN LINKED TO MBFR. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ZA RUBEZHOM COMMENTARY, TITLED "NEGOTIATION IN VIENNA: THE WEST'S TURN TO SPEAK," CONTENDS THAT THE WEST HAS BEEN "UNABLE TO RESPOND" TO THE EAST'S "CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS" DURING THE FOURTH ROUND. IT AGAIN SPELLS OUT THE DETAILS OF THE WARSAW PACT'S NOVEMBER 1973 PROPOSAL, CONTRASTING THEM WITH THE NATO PROPOSAL, WHICH IT CONTENDS "CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION." AS EVIDENCE OF THE PACT'S "GOOD WILL AND SINCERE INTEREST" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMENTARY CONTINUES, THE PACT PUT FORWARD A "NEW, CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL" TO CONCLUDE A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF TROOPS IN 1975. THIS NEW PROPOSAL, WHICH THE COMMENTARY DESCRIBES IN THE USUAL BROAD OUTLINES, "COULD BECOME THE START OF THE PROCESS OF FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS.

3. THE AUTHORS CONCLUDE THAT NATO POLICY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS STILL GUIDED BY THE DESIRE TO "ACT FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH," AND THIS HAS RESULTED IN A "VIOLATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED DURING THE PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS, ESPECIALLY A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUALITY AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY."

4. NATO ALSO, THE COMMENTARY CONTENDS, IS ATTEMPTING TO SLOW DOWN THE EXECUTION OF OBLIGATIONS WHICH STEM FROM THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT. IT QUOTES THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE
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ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO SEEK SOLUTIONS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AND PREVENTION OF UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES, AND ARGUES THAT IF THIS "MOST IMPORTANT UNDERSTANDING" WERE PUT INTO PRACTICE, AND "IF NATO WERE NOT SABOTAGING" THE SUCCESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE ASSURED.

5. THE COMMENTARY ENDS ON AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE: "NEVERTHELESS, THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, THEIR VERY THEME--ACHIEVEMENT

OF GUARANTEED SECURITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE BY MEANS OF A LOWERING OF THE LEVEL OF MILITARY POTENTIALS -- IS A CONSTITUENT PART OF THE POSITIVE TENDENCY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH DETENTE HAS BECOME THE DOMINANT FACTOR. IN THEIR TURN, THESE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES CAN EXERT FAVORABLE INFLUENCE ON DETENTE, COMPLEMENT IT, FURTHER (ITS) IRREVERSIBILITY... PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE AND SHOULD ENSUE."

6. IN OTHER COMMENTARY IN THE SOVIET PRESS ON MBFR RELATED ISSUES, ONE KEY MENTION OF US NUCLEAR WARHEADS ON OVERSEAS BASES CONTINUES (REFTEL). IZVESTIYA'S B. BLADIMIROV ON DECEMBER 20, WRITING ON GREECE'S DECISION TO DO AWAY WITH FOREIGN BASES ON ITS SOIL WHICH ARE NOT RELATED TO GREECE'S OWN DEFENSE, CONTENTS THAT "IN THIS CONNECTION PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY POINTS TO THE NEED TO FINISH ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH THE QUESTION OF THE LOCATION ON GREEK TERRITORY OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR WARHEADS WHICH CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY." A COLONEL YU. BELYAYEV, WRITING IN SOVIET PATRIOT, THE PRESS ORGAN OF THE PREINDUCTION MILITARY TRAINING ORGANIZATION DOSAAF, CRITICIZES U.S. DUAL-BASING OF TROOPS IN EUROPE AND INFORMS READERS THAT THE U.S. HAS 7,200 NUCLEAR WARHEADS WAREHOUSED IN WESTERN EUROPE. STOESEL

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